(c) whether Government have taken up this matter with the U.K. Government and if so, what has been their response?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) During Prime Minister Junejo's recent visit to the UK, the purchase of type 23 frigates by Pakistan was considered, but the deal was neither announced nor signed. It is believed to be still under negotiation. Government are monitoring all such developments which have a bearing on the country's security.

Export of Iron ore

1038. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of iron ore exported to Japan during the years 1984-85 and 1985-86;

(b) the percentage of iron ore exported from Bailadila to Japan during 1984-85 and 1985-86 out of the total export;

(c) the quantum of steel imported from Japan during the above period;

(d) whether Japan is the only country imported iron ore from India; and

(e) if not, what are the names of the other countries importing iron ore from India?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) The quantum of iron ore (excluding iron ore concentrates) exported to Japan during 1984-85 and 1985-86 was 16.596 million tonnes and 18.469 million tonnes respectively.

(b) The percentage of iron ore exported from Bailadila to Japan during 1984-85 and 1985-86 was 33.07 per cent and 29.57 per cent respectively.

(c) During 1984-85, 510,000 tonnes of steel was imported from Japan. Statistics for 1985-86 have not been compiled so far.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Besides Japan, other countries importing iron ore from India are Romania, S. Korea, Taiwan, Italy, DPRK, China, GDR, Bulgaria, Pakistan, Czechoslovakia, etc.

Import and Export of Sugar

1039. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of sugar imported from different countries during the last financial year and also the quantum exported during the same period;

(b) the price of sugar per metric tonne in the country and the rate at which it was sold in foreign countries; and

(c) the amount of money spent in the purchase of sugar and the amount of foreign exchange earned through the export of sugar during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) As per provisional estimates, the import of sugar during 1986-87 was of the order of 8 lakh tonnes from various sources. The quantity of sugar exported during this period was 0.34 lakh tonnes.

(b) The retail price of levy sugar distributed through fair price shops was Rs. 4.80 per Kg. from 1-12-1985 to 14-12,1986 and Rs. 4.85 per Kg. from 15-12-86 onwards. The free sale price of sugar fluctuates from day to day and varies from place to place.

The average price of sugar sold in foreign countries during 1986-87 was Rs. 5463 per metric tonne (FOB).

(c) Tre CIF cost of import of sugar during 1986-87 is provisionally estimated at Rs. 220 crores. The foreign exchange earned through export of sugar during the year was valued at Rs. 18.50 crores.

Afforestation programme by NWDB

1040. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Notional Wasteland Development Board (NWDB) has launched afforestation programme to encourage individuals to participate in the 'Forest Plantation Drive' all over the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the total acreage of land covered under this programme so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Participation by individuals in the afforestation programme is an important element of the Twenty Point Programme. The National Wastelands Development Board also recommended to the States/UT Governments to device schemes for making land available to rural poor and encourage them to plant trees on such lands by giving usufruct and ownership rights on the planted trees.

(c) The number of seedling distributed under Farm Forestry component of the Twenty Point Programme and the national area on which tree planting has been done during the 6th Plan and in 1985-86 are given below:

Period	No. of seedlings distributed (in lakh)	National areas in lakh ha.
6th Plan . . .	38000	19
1985-86 . . .	139	6.96

Instant Tea Project, Jorhat

1041. SHRI NAGEN SAIKIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Instant Tea Projec, sponsored by the Tea Board at Toklai Tea Research Association at Jorhat, has been closed;

(b) whether the Project is likely to be sold out to the Vice-Chairman of the Tea Board; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken for the re-employment of the skilled and other employees of the Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (c) A decision had been taken for transfer/sale of the Tea Board's pilot plant for instant tea at Tocklai with a view to making available the know-how to intending entrepreneurs in India. Details are under finalisation.

Organisation of cultural fairs by the ITDC

1042. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the cultural fairs that have been organised by the ITDC in its various hotels and also participation by the ITDC in various food festivals in India and